

An Apple a Day...Feeding the 21st Century Learner with Technology

Request for \$5,000

Budget

20-8gb iPod Touch	$\$129.99 \times 20 =$	\$2,599.80
QC15 Desktop Charge/Organize Station		\$ 379.99
MacBook laptop Computer		\$ 999.00
20-iPod protective skins	$\$2.64 \times 20 =$	\$ 52.80
20-of each of the following applications:	Math Bing (.99) Pop Math (.99) Flash to Pass (.99) Tanagrams (.99) Magic Word (.99) Spell & Listen (4.99) Word Families (.99) ABC Tracer (1.99) Boggle (.99) BrainPop, Star Walk (2.99)	\$ 377.80
20-iPod Touch Pens	$\$5.00 \times 20 =$	\$100.00
iTune Gift Cards for future purchases of educational applications		\$450.00

TOTAL=\$4,959.39

Projected Budget: The total request for the project is \$4,959.39, which will cover the expenses of twenty iPod Touch devices (8gb, \$129.99 each), one QC 15 Desktop iPod charging/organization station (\$398.99), one MacBook laptop computer (\$1,045.00), twenty iPod protective skins (\$55.44), twenty of each educational iPod downloadable applications; Math Bing (.99) Pop Math (.99) Flash to Pass (.99) Tanagrams (.99) Magic Word (.99) Spell & Listen (4.99) Word Families (.99) ABC Tracer (1.99) Boggle (.99) BrainPop, Star Walk (2.99), twenty iPod Touch pens (\$100), and additional iTune gift cards to purchase downloadable learning programs to meet the individual student needs. All funds will be used for purchasing the technology equipment, software, and future iPod Touch programs to meet the educational needs of Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School students in Sparta, Wisconsin. New iPod Touch downloadable learning applications will be sustained yearly through individual classroom

budgets based on individual classroom and student needs. No other grant funds will be obtained to contribute to this project of closing the achievement gap and creating life-long learners in the Sparta School District.

Future/Other Funding: Educators at Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School have a vision of sustaining the use of iPod Touch devices and increasing downloadable student applications for years to come in order to consistently meet the needs of our elementary school students. Once the equipment has been purchased, this project is very sustainable through the use of individual classroom budgets which allow the purchase of new software as academic needs arise. By acquiring the cutting-edge technology of iPod Touch devices and providing academic achievement results to our district administrative team, we believe additional funding will be given serious consideration for future technology purchases as our team of educators work to close the achievement gap.

Abstract: Lawrence-Lawson Elementary students will become actively engaged in technology through the use of iPod Touch devices. *An Apple a Day...Feeding the 21st Century Learner with Technology* will motivate students to increase their knowledge of reading and math skills while differentiating instruction to meet academic needs. The knowledge gained from these experiences will help to improve test scores while developing problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making skills.

Goal/Objectives: An Apple a Day...Feeding the 21st Century Learner project seeks \$5,000 to fund the purchase of sixteen iPod Touch devices to be used throughout our kindergarten through third grade elementary school. Our goal is to aggressively target our low-socio economic population to raise test scores through the increased use of technology. Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School believes early intervention through the use of technology will build math and reading skills that will close the achievement gap. In order to cultivate this willingness to learn through technology, we have developed an educational set of objectives that will allow our school to reach our goal of closing the achievement gap. Our approach incorporates the following objectives:

- **Active Participation:** Students will learn to make decisions, be creative, determine relevancy of information while learning in a student-centered environment using iPod Touch devices.
- **In-Depth Knowledge:** Students will utilize the numerous applications offered for iPod Touch devices to acquire in-depth knowledge in the areas of reading and math.
- **Real-Life Experience:** Students will act as their own facilitator to build and maintain 21st century skills as aligned with state, national and district standards.
- **Increased Motivation:** iPod Touch devices will excite learners and motivate them to achieve.

- **Technology Skills:** Students will use iPod Touch devices on a daily basis that will provide the experiences necessary to close the achievement gap while developing technology skills for the 21st century

Evaluation: Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School will conduct both formative and summative assessments to determine the educational impact of using iPod Touch devices in the elementary classroom. Educators will assess students' time on task behavior through the use of anecdotal records to determine the effectiveness of an iPod Touch device as a motivating learning tool while noting whether a child is actively engaged and participating in their learning. Formative assessments such as timed math fact tests, quick quizzes, unit math and reading tests, as well as writing prompts and weekly spelling tests will be used by educators. These assessments will determine areas of growth or the need for interventions to improve student knowledge. Summative assessment scores from school wide M.A.P. (Measure of Academic Progress) Tests will be reviewed to verify academic progress gained by implementing iPod Touch devices. The effectiveness of using iPod Touch devices in the classroom will be shared with other schools within our district, as well as the school board and administrative staff in order to broaden the awareness and positive impact of technology use in the elementary classroom. Weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings will provide a forum for teachers to share their experiences enabling us to learn from each other as we explore a new way of teaching. Our school's web site will provide an avenue in which to communicate to the public our efforts to differentiate the curriculum in order to meet all students' needs, as well as communicate our desire to expand our classroom walls to encompass the world in which we live.

Statement of Need: The need for closing the achievement gap is evident. According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 (NCLB) signed into law by President Bush, all students in public schools must perform at a proficient level by the 2013-2014 school year. Our elementary school serves approximately 230 Kindergarten through third grade children. Of those 230 students, 14% are minorities with 60% of the total population currently receiving free and reduced lunch due to their low socio-economic status. Our elementary school's mission consistently focuses on building 21st century skills and closing the achievement gap. However, even though we have been named a Wisconsin School of Promise for academic achievement based on our 2009-2010 WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination) results, our school will still not meet the NCLB goal of 100% of the student population achieving at advanced or proficient levels by 2013. Currently, 78.7% of our third grade students are advanced or proficient in Reading and 80.1 % are advanced and proficient in Mathematics. By implementing our "Apple a Day" project we can close the achievement gap by engaging students in hands-on learning experiences while targeting individual needs and closing the achievement gap.

Students who are given opportunities to interact with technology will be more engaged and excited about learning. According to Randall (2011), “students get excited when they can get their hands on a new piece of technology and can move closer to experiencing what they are learning. This generation loves doing more than listening.” Using technology effectively in the classroom can help clear up concepts students might not understand since the concept is now presented in a format they are used to seeing, hence, raising academic achievement scores and closing the achievement gap. It is also suggested that technology in the classroom prepares our students for the real world (Randall, 2011).

In the article, *The Impact of Education Technology on Student Achievement: What the Most Current Research has to say*, (Shaeter, 1999) a study conducted from 1990-1997 to assess the effect of technology on pre-k students through high school. This study concluded that students showed increased achievement in all subject areas and students attitudes toward learning improved with the use of technology.

One of our school goals is to create life-long learners and what better way to develop 21st century skills than through the use of innovative and familiar tools for learning.

Randall, B (January 12, 2011). *Using Technology in the Classroom - Why Technology?* EzineArticles, Retrieved from http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Buck_Randall

Shaeter, John (1999). *The Impact of Education Technology on Student Achievement: What the Most Current Research has to say*, Retrieved from http://www.waynecountyschools.org/150820127152538360/lib/150820127152538360/impact_on_student_achievement.pdf

Activities: To obtain our goal of closing the achievement gap by raising test scores, we plan the following activities:

- **Creating Podcasts** to represent learning acquired from research projects or to show understanding of concepts taught. Created Podcasts can be shared on our districts web page for parents to view.
 - Topics of research include: solar system, careers, animals, and seasons
- **Audio tape** students reading so they can evaluate their own reading rate, fluency, and intonation. Information gained can be shared with parents as well as used to guide individual instruction.
- **Educational applications** being considered to reinforce skills being taught include:

- **Math:** Math Bingo, Pop Math, Flash to pass, Tanagrams
- **Reading:** Magic word, Spell and Listen, Word Families, ABC Tracer, Boggle
- **Internet applications:** Brain Pop, Star Walk
- **Professional Development:** Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Fitzpatrick plan to share their knowledge and experience using iPod Touch devices with staff at Lawrence Lawson Elementary School in order to encourage others to use this technology to increase achievement throughout their school.

Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School must meet the No Child Left Behind Act that mandates all children must score at an advanced or proficient level by the 2013-2014 school year. As we near this deadline, there is no time to waste. Students of low socio-economic backgrounds need technology tools now more than ever. iPod Touch devices will allow teachers to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual students while engaging them in high level learning activities that will increase test scores.